

# The Tell-Show Strategy

**Give it a try.** Take any simple sentence from your current piece that mentions something you can describe and write it down on the “Tell” side of the chart. Then, make a picture of that sentence in your mind and write down all the things you see in that picture on the “Show” side.

When I do this, it feels like I’m creating a “mini-story” about a particular thing in my piece. I try to think of all the things I “see” in my mental picture as different characters in a scene. And then I try to bring those characters to life with “showing.”

**TELL**

*Just say it very simply*

*(The less you write, the better)*

**SHOW**

*Describe it in detail*

*(Make a picture in the reader's mind)*